

South Carolina

YOUNG FARMER *and* FUTURE FARMER

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FFA Soil Identification Meet



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Notes from the Executive Secretary



To Young Farmers

By Tommy Gladden

DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics will be hosting this year's Young Farmer Summer Tour at their research center in Goldsboro, North Carolina. The date has been set for July 24 and 25. DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics will be providing a dinner meal Friday evening, lodging, and breakfast Saturday morning at no cost to members and their spouses.

We anticipate an excellent tour of the plant breeding and demonstration facilities. Our longtime friend, Mr. Casey Pitts, is organizing the tour. Knowing Casey, I am sure we will have a good time.

To secure meals and rooms, I must have the names of those that are to attend by July 10. A letter of information

will be mailed to chapter advisors and presidents in late May and to all members in early June.

A note to remind chapters that membership rosters are due May 31st. If your roster is still out, please send it in as soon as possible. We look forward to a good year, our 40th year.

The executive committee, acting on the recommendation of the contest and awards committee and a motion from the delegates during the general session, has removed the age restriction on all individual awards with the exception of the Young Farmer of the Year Award. Chapters should now be able to fully participate in the entire contests and awards program.

To Future Farmers

By J. Earl Frick, Jr.

The school year is rapidly drawing to a close, and summer activities are just around the corner. Reservations are being received daily for the camping program at the Cherry Grove FFA Camp. The first week of camp, June 15-19, has no more vacancy, but FFA members can plan a camping trip to the beach June 29-July 3 or July 6-10. You might also plan to attend the Leadership Conference at the camp June 23-26. Talk with your advisor if you can get a group of fellow members who want to attend the Cherry Grove FFA Camp.

Many chapters utilize the summer months to plan the program of activities for the coming school year. It is very important for your chapter to have a written plan or road map to guide you through the year. There are numerous

FFA activities planned by the state and national organizations. Organize a committee to be responsible for planning the program of activities, and make sure your chapter takes advantage of the leadership opportunities available.

Another summer activity enjoyed by a number of chapters is to plan a weekend camping trip or retreat. Such an outing would allow members to meet during the summer to make plans for the new school year. The Cherry Grove FFA Camp is available for such outings if prior arrangements are made.

Plan now to have a successful FFA chapter in 1987-88, a chapter that will involve all members in a variety of activities that will develop leadership abilities.

Cover Photo

The cover photo features a scene from one of the land sites during the 32nd annual SCFFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Meet at Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence.

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National FFA Week

SCFFA Sponsors Wide Variety of Activities

Clover FFA Chapter with 57 members was in tune with the 1987 FFA Week theme of "Preparing Leaders for New Fields of Agriculture" as it joined with other FFA Chapters across the State in observing National FFA Week.

An article in the Clover Herald noted that "one of the most successful of new ideas which has become popular with Clover agriculture students was the publishing of a chapter newspaper under the banner of 'FFA Times'." "It contains pertinent information on FFA activities at Clover High School, what the local chapter is doing, awards, and upcoming activities," Chris Edge, agriculture teacher said.

Mr. Edge said the chapter also has rekindled an interest in an outdoor classroom at the high school which was initially designed to serve as an outdoor teaching facility. Recently, the Future Farmers with the help of South Carolina House Member Herbert Kirsh were able to secure about 100 railroad crossties for use in making a walkway to prevent further erosion at the environmental lab near the school.

The chapter also seeks to organize an alumni club for FFA members at Clover High School, and to get the outdoor lab at Clover High School in operation so it can be used for demonstration purposes. This is just a few goals set by the chapter.

"The good thing about our agriculture program is the students. As soon as they know what you want or what's to be done, they do it," Mr. Edge said.

"I want to instill a sense of pride in these students. I want them to achieve and to be proud of themselves for doing it," he continued.

Johnsonville FFA

Activities planned and conducted by Johnsonville FFA Chapter included the signing of a proclamation by Mayor Randolph Willis. The proclamation

noted that the FFA performs the valuable service of developing leadership, encouraging cooperation, promoting good citizenship, teaching modern information and inspiring patriotism among its members," Mayor Willis said in the proclamation.

Pleasant Hill

Pleasant Hill High School conducted several activities during FFA Week. These included passing out FFA pens and notepads to teachers, provided local restaurants with placemats, designed bulletin boards in the high school and middle school, distributed

spot announcements to local radio stations and FFA news articles to local newspapers.

Over in Horry County, Future Farmers at Green Sea Floyds High School recently united with the Future Homemakers in an awareness effort targeted at preventing drunk driving.

It would be difficult to report on all activities during FFA Week, however the activities in this article were condensed from several news stories carried in several local newspapers serving local communities.

Coming Events

June 10-12 SCFFA State Convention, Clemson

June 15 Cherry Grove FFA Camp Opens

June 23-26 SCFFA Leadership Conference, Cherry Grove FFA Camp

July 24-25 South Carolina Young Farmer Summer Tour, Goldsboro, N.C.

July 27-29 South Carolina Agricultural Teachers Conference, Columbia

October South Carolina State Fair

November National FFA Convention Kansas City, Mo.

Agricultural Teachers Conference July 27-29

Vocational teachers and administrators will meet for their annual conference July 27-29 at the University of South Carolina.

The opening general session is scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday July 27, and the SCVA annual banquet will be Tuesday evening.

The annual meeting of the South Carolina Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association will start at 5:30 Monday afternoon, July 27 in the Holiday Inn-City Center. An awards banquet

will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Major emphasis for inservice educational programs for agriculture teachers this year will be on achieving excellence in agricultural education and reinforcing basic skills through vocational education. Concurrent workshop sessions will be conducted on Wednesday with the schedule arranged to provide an opportunity for teachers to attend two different sessions.

Exhibits of instructional materials and equipment will be on display.

Brittons Neck Wins In Livestock

The Brittons Neck High School FFA Chapter's livestock judging team in Marion County captured first place in the recent annual South Carolina Future Farmers of America Livestock Selection and Grading Contest at Pendleton.

The top award includes an expense paid trip to the annual National Livestock Contest during the American Royal Livestock Show in November at Kansas City, Mo. First place Brittons Neck team also was awarded a plaque as the top team in the state.

Members of the team include Aaron Reason, Ron Taylor, Scott Everett, and Jason Poston. Jerry Pace, agriculture teacher, is team advisor.

Top individual honors went to Mark Hardin of the Blacksburg FFA Chapter, William Parker, advisor. Wesley Yon of the Wagener-Salley Chapter, was second, Allen Williams, advisor; and Ron Taylor of Brittons Neck Chapter, third.

Top district honors and a plaque went to the Pendleton FFA Chapter, District 1; York FFA Chapter, District 2; and Wagener-Salley Chapter, District 4.

Sixteen four-member FFA teams, already tested in earlier local competition, participated in the contest.

The field day climaxed the study and work on selection and grading beef cattle and swine by Future Farmers in vocational agriculture classes during the year. The meet provided an opportuni-



Members of the Brittons Neck FFA Livestock Judging Team which won first place in the recent annual South Carolina Future Farmers of America Livestock Selection and Grading Contest are shown above. They include, left to right, Jerry Pace, agriculture teacher and team advisor; Aaron Reason, Ron Taylor, Scott Everett, and Jason Poston. Judging was held at Pendleton.

ty for students to demonstrate their livestock selection and grading skills acquired in the classroom.

Seven classes of beef and swine graded in the contest were provided by Clemson University. Local arrangements for the event were made by Professor Dale Handlin and other members

of the Animal Science department staff and the Block and Bridle Club of Clemson University. The Animal Science staff made the official placings. W.P. Lloyd, of Walterboro and Tommy Gladden, of Columbia, both district consultants, agricultural education, coordinated the event.



Members of the Pendleton FFA Chapter's livestock judging team which won first place in District 1 in the recent annual South Carolina Future Farmers of America Livestock Selection and Grading Contest at Pendleton are shown above. They include, left to right, Al Gray, advisor and agriculture teacher at Pendleton; Andrew Gaylord, Bernard Hampton, Frankie Mullikin, and Tommy Owens.



Mark Hardin of Blacksburg FFA Chapter, left, was high individual winner in the recent annual South Carolina Future Farmers of America Livestock Selection and Grading Contest at Pendleton. Those in the picture include, left to right, Mark Hardin, Wesley Yon of Wagener-Salley FFA Chapter, second place; and Ron Taylor of Brittons Neck FFA Chapter, third.



Brian Clinkscales of Crescent FFA Chapter, top photograph, estimates thinning of timber; and Carol Dickerson of Andrews, above, measures pulpwood in standing timber.



Winners in the recent Forest Products Field Day are shown above. Those in the picture include, left to right, front row, Harry Walter of Andrews FFA Chapter, third place trophy; Todd Metz of Crescent, second place; and Andrew Wiles of Crescent, first place trophy. Back row, Russ Hallberg of Bowater Catawba Timber Company, Rock Hill; Gary Hermann of West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, Walterboro; Nate McCall of International Paper Company, Georgetown; and Sean Leary of Stone Container, Corporation, Florence, all representatives of sponsoring firms.

Crescent Wins Forest Products Rivalry

Andrew Wiles and Todd Metz, both of Crescent FFA Chapter in Anderson County, captured first and second place trophies respectively in the recent annual FFA Forest Products Field Day. The field day was held in Manchester State Forest in Sumter County.

Third place winner was Harry Walter of Andrews FFA Chapter in Georgetown County. Agriculture teachers who coached the winners include Gilmore McManus at Andrews and John Herron of the Crescent Chapter.

The Forest Products Field Day featured skill competition in several

categories taught in forest occupations classes in high school vocational agricultural classes. The several key forest harvesting practices in the competition included thinning, estimating standing timber and pulpwood, scaling saw logs, and measuring pulpwood already loaded on a truck.

Russ Hallberg of Bowater Catawba Timber Company, Rock Hill, is chairman of the sponsoring committee. Other sponsors include International Paper Company, West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, and Stone Container Corporation.



Members of the Wagner-Salley FFA Livestock Judging Team which won first place District 4 honors and a plaque in the recent annual South Carolina Future Farmers of America Livestock Selection and Grading Contest at Pendleton are shown above. They include, left to right, Allen Williams, agriculture teacher and team advisor; Robin Poole, Jammie Hutson, Paul Walker, and Wesley Yon.



Members of the York FFA Chapter which won first place district honors and a plaque at the recent annual South Carolina Future Farmers of America Livestock Selection and Grading Contest at Pendleton are shown above. Those in the picture include, left to right, Frank Sandifer, agriculture teacher and team advisor, Tina Queen, Mike Wright, Kevin Montgomery, and John Horshow.



Vocational agriculture students are shown above scaling logs in the annual Forest Products Field Day while contestants in the background estimates the cords of wood on a truck. Jerry Gowdy in right photograph, gives dimensions of truck loaded with pulpwood while participants estimate the number of cords.



SCFFA Plans 60th Anniversary Convention

South Carolina Future Farmers will celebrate their 60th anniversary convention of the South Carolina Association of Future Farmers of America June 10-12 at Clemson University.

Several hundred delegates from high school FFA Chapters throughout the state, friends and guests of the association, are planning to attend, according to Hugh P. McClimon of Columbia, state supervisor of vocational agricultural education. Delegates will register from 10:30 to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, June 10 at the University Union Lobby on West Campus.

The convention program will get underway with Vesper Services at 7:30 in Tillman Hall auditorium, and the first general session will get underway at 7:45 Wednesday night.

Dr. Max Lennon, president of Clemson University, will welcome the Future Farmers at the opening session.

The first session also will feature finals in the State FFA Public Speaking Contest, presentation of an agricultural scholarship sponsored by the South Carolina Plant Food Educational Society, recognition of Honorary State Farmers, and an address by Dean Harder of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, National FFA Vice president.

Other activities during the three-day convention will include competitive activities related to classroom training in several categories of agricultural and agri-business occupational skills, presentation of awards in some 20 categories; and presentations by guest speakers.

The State FFA Parliamentary Procedure Contest finals will be held Thursday morning.

State FFA officers who will preside include Patricia Port of Pleasant Hill, president; Kenneth Thompkins of Mullins, secretary; and Vice Presidents William H. Ray, Jr., of Hunter Kinard-Tyler; Russell Green, Jr. of Mayo; Jimmy Smith of Strom Thurmond; and Roy Patterson, Jr. of York.

Members of the State Vocational Agricultural Education office staff who will assist with the convention include Hugh P. McClimon of Columbia, state supervisor of agricultural education SCFFA advisor; J. Earl Frick, Jr. of Florence, executive secretary of SCFFA; Walter P. Lloyd of Walterboro, and Tommy Gladden of Columbia.



The first place Loris Team include left to right, kneeling, Gilbert Canady, and James Norris. Standing, Lewis Williamson, Carolina Power and Light Company, Florence, who presented the award on behalf of the sponsors, Todd Nalley, and Craig Reeves, team members, and Ben Hardee, agriculture teacher and team advisor.



Pelion Future Farmers scored second. Those in the picture include left to right, seated, Lance Jeffcoat and Michael Gunter. Standing, Von Snelgrove of Columbia, South Carolina Land Resources Commission who presented awards for the sponsors; Jody Baughman, Sam Jackson, and Frank R. Stover, Jr., agriculture teacher at Pelion.

Loris and Pelion Lead in Soil Identification Meet

Future Farmers of America Soil Identification teams from Loris FFA Chapter in Horry County, and Pelion FFA Chapter in Lexington County worked their way to top honors in the recent annual 32nd State FFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment competition. The event was held at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence.

Loris Chapter which captured first place and Pelion, second place represented the SCFFA Association at the annual National Land Judging Meet May 6-7 at Oklahoma City, Okla.

Loris team members included Todd Nalley, Gilbert Canady, James Norris and Craig Reeves. Ben Hardee, agriculture teacher at Loris, is team advisor.

Members of the Pelion team included Jody Baughman, Michael Gunter, Sam Jackson and Lance Jeffcoat. Frank Stover, Jr., agriculture teacher at Pelion, is team advisor.

High individual honors went to Gilbert Canady of Loris who was awarded \$450.00 for expenses to the National FFA Convention this fall in Kansas City, Mo. Second place award, an engraved gold watch, was presented to Aaron

Reason of Brittons Neck Chapter in Marion County.

The Loris Chapter and Pelion Chapter received \$1,200.00 each toward expenses to the National Competition in Oklahoma City.

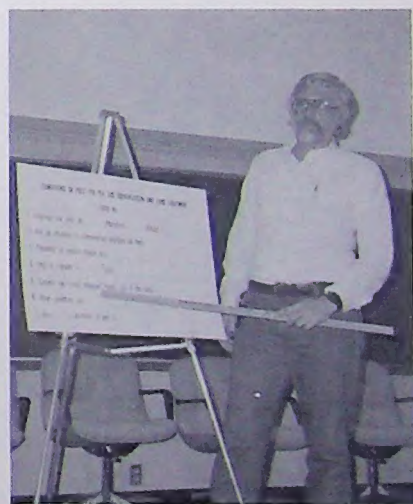
Sixteen FFA teams of four members each competed for the top honors, after winning in FFA Federation competition earlier.

Top district honors and a plaque also went to Laurens FFA Chapter, District 1; and Edisto Chapter, District 4.

More than 5,000 South Carolina high school students receive instruction annually in soil identification and land treatment through the high school vocational agriculture classes. This soil study includes teaching knowledge and application of skills to select land for most efficient production of crops, timber and livestock. The recent FFA soil judging competition included making an analysis of various soil types and conditions, determining what crop or use each type of soil is best suited. A score card was used to score various soil factors involved to determine best land use.

Sponsors who fund expense paid trips and individual awards, and assist

in the activities include Carolina Power and Light Company, Duke Power Company, South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts, and South Carolina Conservation Districts Foundation. The soil identification activity is conducted through the Office of Vocational Education of the State Department of Education.



Ben Stuckey of Soil Conservation Service, explains the field condition chart during the instructional session.



The Edisto FFA Chapter team captured the District 4 plaque. Those in the picture include, left to right, George Ulmer, agriculture teacher and team advisor; Gregory Smoaks, Eddie Proctor, David Faile, and Travis Robinson.



Laurens FFA Chapter captured the District 2 plaque. Those in the picture include Marc Connelly of Duke Power Company, Anderson, right, who presented the plaque on behalf of the sponsors; Brian Stevens, Jason Parson, George Jordan, and David Hedden, team members; and T.B. Huffman, agriculture teacher and team advisor, left.

History Repeats Itself In FFA Soil Competition

The old cliché that "history repeats itself" was evident at the recent 32nd SCFFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Meet.

Twenty-five years ago Loris FFA and Pelion FFA soil judging teams took top honors in the seventh annual South Carolina Future Farmers of America Soil Judging Meet March 28, 1962 at Winnsboro.

When the scores were tabulated at the recent 32nd meet at the Pee Dee Research Center near Florence, Loris and Pelion again came out at the top, Loris first place, and Pelion second, the same placing as 25 years ago.

It didn't require any effort to recall the

agriculture teachers back then, especially at Pelion where Frank R. Stover, Sr. coached the 1962 team. His influence no doubt carried over into his son, Frank R. Stover, Jr. who coached the 1987 team. The like father, like son tradition is carrying on successful programs in soil identification as well as in other endeavors in agricultural education at Pelion.

The first place Loris agriculture teacher and team coach 25 years ago was J.D. McCormick in those days when agriculture teachers pitted strong teams coached to a high degree of skills for close competition with each other. The tradition carries on today as in-

dictated by the Pelion and Loris teams along with the other teams in the State still vying for top honors in soil study.

Members of the Loris team in 1962 were Dennis Hardwick, Marshall Carter, second high individual; George Gore and William Tyler, first place individual.

Pelion team members included Douglas Shumpert, Loyd Lucas, Jimmy Craft, and Sammy Jackson, father of Sam Jackson, a member of the 1987 team.

In 1962, more than 50,000 Future Farmers had received training in soil judging in their agriculture classes in high school during first seven years of the contest, one of the speakers noted.



Three representatives of sponsoring firms who assisted in coordinating the SCFFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Meet, left photograph, discuss procedures before judging activities get underway. They include, left to right, Lewis Williamson of Carolina Power and Light Company, Florence; Hugh P. McClimon, state supervisor of agricultural education, S.C. Department of Education, Columbia; Marc Connelly of Duke Power Company, Anderson; and Bill Gladden, S.C. Electric and Gas Company, Columbia. Suspenseful anticipation builds as indicated by the several contestants, right photograph, above as they wait for the instructional session to get underway.

Beautiful Weather Welcomes Soil Meeting

Beautiful clear skies and warm spring weather greeted Future Farmers competing in the 32nd annual SCFFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Meet at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center, Florence.

Soil identification teams began arriving early from all parts of the State. It was a morning of anticipation and waiting for activities to get underway with an instructional session for contestants at 10:30 a.m. Earlier, clusters of Future Farmers, or individual teams, stopped along the roadside enroute to the Research Center. They observed and studied the terrain, woods, and fields, seeking to get a better picture of what was forthcoming when they arrived at the site for judging.

The session got underway with welcome and instructions to team members.

The opening session also featured brief comments from South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Leslie Tindal.

"You are the future of agriculture. I would like to see you take advantage of the new things that are emerging in agriculture in South Carolina," Mr. Tindal said in a challenge to the Future Farmers.



Travis Robinson of Edisto FFA Chapter, analyzes soil texture as one of the many factors in soil identification and land treatment.

"There are opportunities in agriculture in spite of what you hear. There is important work in all areas of the State. We import 60 percent of our seafood. You can produce it here. There is a big demand.

"There is a big demand for bedding plants. Most of our supply now is coming from out-of-state.

"There is a growing market for cut flowers. Major chain stores are putting in floral departments," he noted in calling attention to some of the emerging opportunities in agriculture.

"Regardless of the doom and gloom you hear about agriculture, it is still bright out there. Once we grew rice, tea, indigo. These have gone. Then we had soybeans and prices on this crop is dwindling. New things are coming. There is a new agriculture emerging," Mr. Tindal continued.

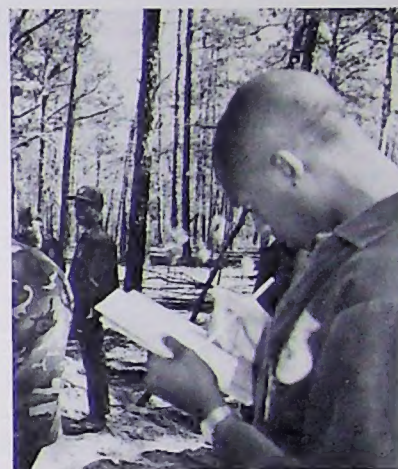
Dr. J.A. Hash, professor of agricultural education at Clemson University, called attention to a need for students in the school of agriculture at Clemson University, and urged Future Farmers to consider enrolling in agriculture at Clemson when graduating from high school.

Other participants on the kick-off program for soil identification activities included Larry Hughes, director of Florence Area Vocational Center who welcomed students on behalf of Florence School District 1; Patricia Port of Hemingway, State FFA president, who introduced State FFA officers present; and Earl Utsey, president of Wilson High School FFA Chapter at Florence who brought greetings from Wilson High School. Mr. Floyd N. Brockington, agriculture teacher at Wilson and his students served as hosts for the meeting.

Ben Stuckey of the Soil Conservation Service, conducted a review and presented instructions to contestants.



High individual winners included, left to right, Aaron Reason of Brittons Neck Chapter, second place, and Gilbert Canady of Loris, center, first place. Individual awards were presented by Hugh P. McClimon, of Columbia, state supervisor of vocational agriculture education, right.



Bernard Hampton of Pendleton FFA Chapter, checks his score card after completing one of the judging sites.



Zachary McDaniel of Lamar, estimates the slope.

The Edisto
plaque. Th
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FFA TEAM — Members of the first place regional team are, from left, Lance Jeffcoat, Sam Jackson, Frank R. Stover Jr., agriculture teacher at Pelion and team advisor, Michael Gunter, and Jody Baughman.

Pelion FFA team takes 1st place

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The team also was fifth highest in national scoring, the highest place a South Carolina FFA team has ever reached in National FFA Soil Identification competition.

Frank R. Stover Jr., agriculture teacher at Pelion, coached the Pelion team. This was the third team he has carried to Oklahoma City. Team members included Lance Jeffcoat, Sam Jackson, Michael Gunter and Jody Baughman.

Winners were announced and trophies presented at a banquet session following the contest.

The Pelion team participated in the national event as one of the two winning teams in the S.C.

FFA annual soil identification meet several weeks ago.

This competition in soil analysis and evaluation is a highlight of soil study in high school vocational agriculture classes. The soil study includes teaching knowledge and application of skills to select land for most efficient production of crops, timber and livestock.

"Soil study is definitely an asset in farming and from it you can tell what you need to add to the soil to produce a crop," Jody Baughman said. "It is also valuable in selecting a site for houses and building," he added.

"We recommend row crops for most of the soils we judged in Oklahoma," the team members said. They especially noted that "the soil out there is of a finer texture and not as course as what we have here."

"Most of the land was Class 1,

and I wish we had more Class 1 land here," Sam Jackson added. Sam had heard about the Oklahoma land from his dad, Samuel Jackson, who went to the National Soil Judging Contest with a team from Pelion 25 years ago.

Each of the four team members who went this year are from farm families and their fathers were members of the Pelion FFA Chapter.

In addition to the excitement of winning, Lance Jeffcoat and other members said they especially enjoyed seeing different parts of the country including the Dallas Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, and the Choctaw Indian Reservation where the contest was conducted. "The reservation offered a beautiful view, looking down somewhat of a slope into a far away distance," they said.

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FFA TEAM — Members of the first place regional team are, from left, Lance Jeffcoat, Sam Jackson, Frank R. Stover Jr., agriculture teacher at Pelion and team advisor, Michael Gunter, and Jody Baughman.

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* Lance, Sam and Michael's fathers were all students of Frank R. Stover, Sr.

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St. Johns FFA

Open House and Petting Zoo brings Excitement to FFA Week Observation

"I want to see that Bulldog climb a tree," they were saying as time came for "Flat Nose" to arrive and start climbing.

Many students, high school, and elementary, were crowding around the pole "Flat Nose" was scheduled to climb every hour on the hour.

The event was the St. Johns High School FFA Chapter's "Open House and Petting Zoo" in Darlington, which was being held in observation of National FFA Week.

Hundreds of students were swarming around the many displays of barnyard animals, feeding baby chicks, and reaching for the many other animals around the shop area in the Vocational Agricultural Department of the school facility. Others were imitating the noise of the various animals that were inclined to express themselves in their language skills.

"How do you get the sheep to go baa baa?" someone asked. "You have to press the horn," another answered.

And so it went from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as teachers, students, and visitors from the community passed through the petting zoo.

"This is wild!" someone exclaimed.

Another long trailer floored with hay and pulled by a tractor arrived carrying a full load of students. They orderly left the trailer and swarmed into the Zoo. "Here they come," Alex Yarborough, agriculture teacher, exclaimed to the Future Farmers who were assisting in conducting the tours, alerting them to be ready for another group.

The young elementary students and high school students, all, crowded around the baby chicks, picking them up and feeding them from a nearby table. They pressed closer to the chicks.

A photographer tried to get a picture. Students were so close you couldn't see the baby chicks. He waited, hoping to get a better shot. More students came.

More crowding, but soon enough had left to leave an opening for the baby chicks to show among the observers.

"This is wild!" a common expression from youngsters and adults throughout the day, was exclaimed again.

Nearby two pigs buried themselves into fresh cured hay while admirers looked on.

Then there was the big wooly sheep...a seemingly big pet, looking on contentedly as it turned its head toward and away from the audience. A bronze turkey, two family type dairy cows, two real mules, birds, goats, and other animals got a good look at the nearly 3,000 observers passing through the zoo.

Several Future Farmers dispensed small cups of feed for the birds and other animals.

Everyone kept looking for "Flat Nose--the Tree Climbing Bulldog." "Flat Nose" had not arrived by noon, and was supposed to have been there much earlier. Barney Odom, Jr., a senior member of the St. Johns FFA Chapter, and son of Barney Odom, Sr., who owns "Flat Nose" placed a phone call to his nearby home. Barney Sr. had worked all night, and needed some rest before bringing "Flat Nose." He'll be here by 1 p.m. Barney, Jr. related.

By 1 p.m. Barney Sr. arrived, and "Flat Nose" was straining at the restraint halter. He headed for the pine towering about 12 feet into the air.

A small bag with cotton was secured about seven feet up the tree. "Flat Nose" dashed to the tree and was gnashing at the cotton bag in no time flat. Barney Sr. struggled to pull him down. The second time, "Flat Nose" caught the cotton bag, and brought it down with him. It took awhile to get the cotton bag away from him. Back up the tree he went, grinning, panting, and a wad of cotton hanging from his lips.

And so it went. Everyone was wild, cheering, talking, and then crowding around Barney Sr. for "Flat Nose's" autograph, which was Barney's signature on a paw print "Flat Nose" had agreed to give.

The paw print was an idea sparked by Ms. Lana Woodberry, the creative business education teacher at the career center, with technical assistance from Richard Truett, graphic arts instructor at the career center. Business promotion and graphic arts technology quickly grew into placing some printers ink on pad and placing "Flat Nose's" paw into the pad, then on a plain sheet of paper. Just as quickly Barney had another job autographing "Flat Nose's" paw print for the dog.

"How did you train 'Flat Nose' to do that?" Barney asked. I didn't, he just started to climb," Mr. Odom said, then observing that the Lord knew what He was doing. "It's a long story," Mr. Odom began.

Barney related experiences four years ago when "Flat Nose" started to climb trees. "We were walking through the woods with the other bulldogs and 'Flat Nose' just started to climb," he said.

A song is being written about "Flat Nose". "They wanted me to sing it, but I said Man, I can't even whistle."

Mr. Yarborough was asked by a news reporter why he went to so much work to set up the petting zoo. "It was the quickest and most effective way we could get part of the story of FFA and vocational agriculture across to the most people in the shortest period of time," he replied.

Douglas Smith is president of the St. Johns FFA Chapter, and Ernie Black was FFA chairman of the activities committee.

The program was planned and developed by members of the St. Johns FFA Chapter.



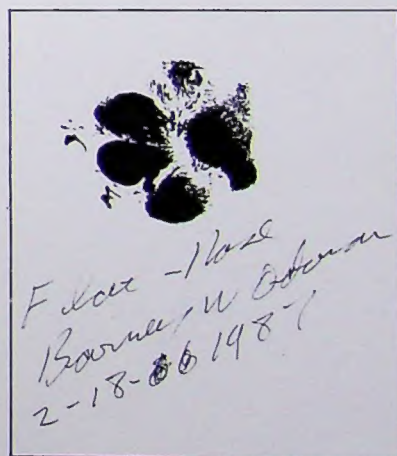
"Here they come," Alex C. Yarborough, agriculture teacher at St. Johns, alerts his students as another trailer loaded with students arrives.



Food was available for visitors to feed the animals. Scott Hall and Frank Gleason, are shown right at the food table as they managed the distribution of small cups of food for birds and the bigger animals.



Students arrive for visit to animal zoo, left photograph, and at right Windy Wallace, St. Johns Elementary student, looks at goat being petted by Scott Venables, ninth grade and first year student in vocational agriculture.



"Flat Nose" finally was released to climb the tree as students crowded around for the excitement and to enjoy conversations with Barney Odom, Sr., and Barney Odom, Jr., agriculture student at St. Johns, center. "Flat Nose" leaves his autograph in right photo.

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